

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: May 23, 2011
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Regional School District Budgets* – In a situation involving a substantial reduction in state aid to municipalities, the Council had asked whether it was possible under state law for the member towns to re-open a regional school district budget after the start of the fiscal year. Our preliminary research does not indicate that the member towns would have this authority. However, like municipalities, regional boards have the ability to reduce expenditures by adjusting programs and services, and other means. The member municipalities also have the authority to levy a supplemental tax bill if necessary.
- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office Rent* – In the context of our discussion last time regarding the proposed rental rate for the Downtown Partnership's office at the Beck building, the Council had asked about the rental amount that the Partnership was paying for its current space in Storrs Commons. The Partnership is presently paying \$15,600 per year or \$18.35 a square foot for 850 square feet of office space. This rate is commensurate with the \$18 per square foot base rate (pre-discount) that the Town is charging to the Downtown Partnership.
- *Old Turnpike Road Stone Sculptures* – Please see [item #6](#) in your packet for a citizen petition regarding the stone sculptures on Old Turnpike Road. Based upon the initial complaint that we had received and this petition, staff will send a notice to all affected landowners to ask whether they would like the Town to retain or remove the sculptures in the right-of-way (ROW) abutting the landowner's individual property. We will then retain or remove the sculptures accordingly, while reserving the right to remove any sculpture that presents a hazard to those using the roadway. Staff believes this procedure is in keeping with the Town's past practice for the maintenance of the ROW.
- *Future agenda items* – As requested by Council, we are planning to conduct a workshop regarding water and wastewater issues and a separate update from EDR, the residential developer of the Storrs center project. We are trying to schedule those workshops to coincide with a time that either our consultants or EDR representatives plan to be in town. I imagine that we could conduct both of these discussions in June or July.

Departmental/Division News

- *Public Library* - Mansfield Public Library will be closed on Saturday, May 28 for the migration to a new, open source integrated library system. The Library will open on Tuesday morning, May 31 as normally scheduled, with a new system!
- *Town Manager's Office/Human Resources*
 - Last week, the Mayor and I attended a dedication ceremony held by The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund for a newly earned 4-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system at E. O. Smith High School. The Town of Mansfield earned this system through its participation in the Connecticut Clean Energy Communities program, which encourages municipal governments, local homeowners and businesses to support clean energy. For more information on this event and program, please see [item #15](#) in your meeting packet.

- On Saturday, Mayor Paterson and I attended the regional launch of the *Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge*, which Mansfield is participating in along with Lebanon and Windham. At the launch, Windham challenged Mansfield to complete 20 residential lighting replacements by July 1, 2011 and Mansfield challenged Lebanon to complete 15 by the same date. For more information and to sign up to participate in the challenge, please visit <http://ctenergychallenge.com/>.
- As some of you may know, Millie Brosseau will be moving from Fire and Emergency Services to the Eastern Highlands Health District next week. Thank you, Millie, for all of your hard work and dedicated service over the years!
- I am pleased to announce that Erica Sledge has joined our staff as a part-time Administrative Assistant in Mansfield Fire and Emergency Services. Erica comes to us with a tremendous amount of experience and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. We are glad to have her join our team. Welcome, Erica!
- Linda Painter, our new Director of Planning and Development, began work today, May 23rd. Greg Padick's last day is scheduled for June 6th. His retirement reception is June 8th; for details please contact Jessie in the Planning Office.
- Sean Kegler has recently been appointed to fill a vacancy for a full-time Library Assistant. Sean is currently pursuing his master's degree in Library Science. He started with the Mansfield Public Library as a page in high school and has been working for the past several years as a part-time library assistant. We are confident that Sean will continue to be a strong asset to our organization.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Police Study* – As discussed at our last meeting, the Police Study Steering Committee will consult with various stakeholder groups and the general public to solicit feedback regarding the draft report. We will start with by meeting with representatives of the Connecticut State Police and the UConn Department of Public Safety. The steering committee will meet soon to coordinate this effort. I am still looking into the Council's inquiry to determine whether the regionalism incentives included as part of the state's FY 2011/12 budget would be applicable to our project.
- *Storrs Center Project* – groundbreaking for Phase 1A of the Storrs Center project is imminent and we will have an announcement for you soon!

Upcoming Events

- *Memorial Day* -- Mansfield will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 30, 2011. The parade will begin at 9:00AM from the intersection of Rt. 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield Center and will travel North on 195, and down Cemetery Road to the new Mansfield Center Cemetery. At the cemetery, Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran will welcome all, State Representative Gregory Haddad will give the address, Councilman Christopher Paulhus will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz will represent the Temple Bnai Israel and give the invocation and benediction. Music will be provided by the Mansfield Middle School Band and the E.O. Smith Regional High School Band. Three volleys will be fired and taps sounded in honors for the fallen. The units will then return to Bassetts Bridge Road. ***All veterans and active duty personnel are invited to march at the head of the parade. We are honored to have our veterans and service personnel join us on Bassetts Bridge Road at 8:30 AM on Memorial Day.*** In the event of inclement weather, an abbreviated ceremony will be held in the Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium. If necessary, an announcement will be made over WILI Radio by 7:30am. Come and join us as we honor our ancestors, family members, loved ones, neighbors and friends who have died in service to our nation.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, May 24, 2011, 9:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committees on Committees Special Meeting, May 24, 2011, 2:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, May 24, 2011, 2:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, May 25, 2011, 1:15PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, June 1, 2011, 5:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, June 2, 2011, 4:00PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
- Inland Wetlands Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, June 6, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, June 6, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer & Water Advisory Committee, June 7, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, June 8, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, June 9, 2011, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, June 9, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Community Quality of Life Committee, June 9, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, June 13, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*